

MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION

February 20, 2014

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9
Chair Gomez presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners Panettieri, Gomez,
Geier-Smith, Kocsis, Congleton, Schwarz

Absentees:

McRae

Staff Attending:

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Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:29p.m. by Chair Gomez.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kocsis and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to approve the minutes from January 16, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Gomez welcomed Commissioner Michael Schwarz who was appointed on January 28, 2014, as a public member. Commissioner Schwarz is an Economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Compensation and Working Conditions in Washington D.C.

Director's Report

Director Liberman informed the Commission of the resignation of Commissioner McEneaney.

Committee Report

- Commissioner Geier-Smith did not have a report.

Staff Report

- Susan Jones, Branch Chief of the Consumer Affairs Branch invited Commissioners to participate in activities and workshops scheduled throughout the county during National Consumer Protection Week, March 2-8, 2014. Information about these events was provided to the Commission.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. Meeting availability was updated.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith expressed appreciation for the prompt response by Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department and other county support agencies to an electrical fire on January 23, 2014, at the Parliaments.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- The annual election was conducted based on the following slate of candidates:

Chair	Commissioner Congleton
Tenant Vice-Chair	Commissioner Panettieri
Landlord Vice-Chair	Commissioner Kocsis
Secretary	Commissioner Geier-Smith

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kocsis and seconded by Commissioner Gomez to accept the slate of candidates as presented. The slate was unanimously elected by the Commission. The term of each office will begin at the March meeting and continue until the next annual election.
- The Channel 16 Committee was discussed. Chair Gomez directed that the monthly report be deleted from the agenda until there is new programming or related planning.
- Staff requested input from the Commission regarding HB 273. This bill changes the applicability of the Virginia Residential Landlord Tenant Act to make it uniform across the state, authorizes a landlord to expedite the disposition of security deposits under certain circumstances, and repeals the requirement for a landlord to accrue interest on security deposits, effective January 1, 2015. The application of these bill amendments was discussed based on the impact on both tenants and landlords. Commission comments were noted.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioners Panettieri and Congleton to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.